

CREWE ALEXANDRA F.C.

1978-79



FOURTH DIVISION –

WIGAN ATHLETIC

SATURDAY, 14th APRIL, 1979. Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Vol. 3 No. 22

OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME

15p

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WARWICK RIMMER

I was very disappointed with our performance in the home game against Reading. I know that we were in fact playing the team who are in second place in the League table and that the cynics will be saying that is no more than they expected, viewing purely on the league positions.

That is a particular line of reasoning I just cannot accept. Both the Reading goals were the direct result of mistakes by individual players. There is no need to elaborate on just who or why these things happened. The facts and, from our point of view, the consequences of them mean that more home points have been taken away from us.

Even allowing for that first setback within minutes, we should have been on level terms, but instead shortly afterwards we found ourselves at 2-0 down instead of at least level.

The penalty area and just outside is a very crucial one on the field of play, for on the one hand your own defence is trying to ensure that the opposition gets as few opportunities as is possible and that your own strikers at the other end take advantage of whatever opportunities come along.

Unfortunately this pattern of chances has seen us creating many and taking few and our opponents having, very often, few and taking them all.

Results such as these are so frustrating, for a lot of hard work had been put into our own preparation and after that well disciplined performance at Scunthorpe we were then unable to maintain it where it really counts — at home.

Supporters, I know, are often puzzled about substitutions. There is nothing mystical about just who, why or indeed when. The sight of a player being carried off is simple enough, but there are other injuries which are not obvious. If you make one too quickly you can find yourself in the position of really needing one, only to realise that you have already used the one you had.

Dai Davies damaged his shoulder in the first half and although he tried to carry on it was just too painful. Luckily there was no breakage but you never know how long a player will be out for.

Today is another key game — give the team all the support you can.

Warwick Rimmer

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Crewe Alexandra F.C. Official Programme - Compiled and Edited by Harold Finch

Introducing

(Photo by courtesy of
Wigan Athletic F.C.)



Back Row: K. Smart, P. Houghton, N. Davids, G. Gay, J. Brown, F. Corrigan, N. Ward,
J. Hinnigan, J. Wright.
Front Row: I. McNeill (Manager), A. Crompton, I. Seddon, T. Gore, I. Gillibrand, J. Wilkie,
I. Purdie, K. Banks (Trainer).

In charge at Wigan Athletic is IAN McNEILL who, after an uneasy start in the Fourth Division, has welded together a very workmanlike side which consists of the following.

JOHN BROWN is now in his third season at Springfield Park. He has had previous service with Preston North End and Stockport County and is firmly established as first choice keeper. KEVIN SMART was given a free transfer by Plymouth Argyle at the end of last season and had played in both their Second and Third Division sides. JOE HINNIGAN came some four seasons ago from Northern Premier League side South Liverpool for a four-figure fee. Is a regular in the defence. TOMMY GORE was elected as the club's Player of the Year at the end of the 77/78 season. Has a very powerful shot and came from Tranmere Rovers five years ago.

NOEL WARD was born in Straban, Northern Ireland and his career started with Portadown, but it was from Aberdeen that he moved to Wigan two seasons ago. DAVE FRETWELL started the season with Bradford City and he made his debut for Wigan in the 1-1 draw at Huddersfield in October last. A very experienced player. FRANK CORRIGAN was signed from Northwich Victoria only last season and has now become a firm favourite with the Wigan fans. JEFF WRIGHT was born in Alston and he came from Netherfield four years ago. Can always be relied upon to get his fair quota of goals every season. For MICKEY MOORE it is a question of coming back home for he started his career with Wigan before joining Port Vale, and he played his first game this season at home to Newport County.

IAN PURDIE was another close season signing from Motherwell. A Scottish Under 23 International, he was also with Dundee and has been a consistent marksman this season. DEREK BROWNBILL was at one time with Liverpool but it was from Port Vale that he came to Wigan. PETER HOUGHTON is another player whose career started with South Liverpool. A powerful centre forward and has a keen eye for chances.

JOHN CURTIS joined the club just before the transfer deadline from Blackburn Rovers and is on loan until the end of the season. NEIL DAVIDS, who came in the close season from Swansea City, is an ex-England Youth International and started the season in the senior side. IAN GILLIBRAND has been an excellent servant of the club and has, in his 10 seasons at Springfield Park, made over 600 appearances. Is now in the reserve side. JOHN WILKIE, who was the club's leading scorer in the last two seasons, came for a four-figure fee from Elgin City of the Highland League and is now fighting to get a first team place again.

. . . . The Visitors

BACKROOM BACKGROUND



This week we feature a man who has probably written more about Crewe Alexandra than all the journalists put together – he is our Programme Editor, Harold Finch.

Harold first visited Gresty Road in 1934 and, having sown the seed, his interest in the Alex has grown. I think it is fair to say that he has compiled more facts about the club than most people have thought about.

He is married to Muriel and has three children. Kathleen, his eldest, is a Divisional Children's Librarian. David is a College lecturer (he was the Club Mascot at one time and serves the club as a gateman on occasions). Youngest son Stephen is very closely associated with this production inasmuch that he works for the printers of our programme and also helps his father on the programme sales side.

Harold is a keen Philatelist and is recognised as an authority on the stamps of Iceland, and his interests in this direction have taken both himself and his wife to that country. In addition they have visited a number of other countries for they both enjoy walking in the open air.

He must have one of the best catalogued collections of programmes in the country, particularly where Crewe Alexandra are concerned. At a small club like ours we are very fortunate to have a man of Harold's calibre, for he is only too ready to help any would be collector and to proffer his first class advice.

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FINCH

This afternoon we welcome to Gresty Road the Football League's newest member, Wigan Athletic, who were only elected at the Annual Meeting last June. After an uncertain start in which their first five games yielded not a single point, they have emerged as strong candidates for one of the promotion places.

Gates at their home games have been between a low figure of 4,459 against Scunthorpe United to their top attendance of 9,427 when they played Barnsley very recently. In the League Cup, after beating Tranmere Rovers on aggregate, they were themselves beaten by Luton Town, the team we were to meet in the very next round. There was to be no extended run in the F.A. Cup this season for, after being held to a 2-2 draw at home to Bury, the replay proved to be a 4-1 win for the Gigg Lane side.

To avoid any possible confusion, the present Wigan Athletic has no connections with the previous League club that went out of existence on 26th October, 1931. However, to remind older supporters of the former Wigan Borough, and indeed those Crewe supporters who could have seen them playing at Gresty Road, the previous results are now detailed.

The first ever meeting with Wigan Borough was on 4th February, 1922 at Gresty Road when the Alex won 2-1 and in the return game the following week the home side won 2-0. The record books show that 10 home games resulted in 4 wins, 1 draw and 5 defeats, 10 goals being scored and 19 conceded. At Wigan, Crewe won in season 1924/25, 3 were drawn and 6 ended in defeat. 13 goals were scored and 28 conceded.

In the F.A. Cup they were to meet twice. In season 1925/26 there was a 2-2 draw at Gresty Road and a 2-1 defeat at Wigan and the following season in the second round Crewe had a fine 4-1 away win. We now turn to the game which was to be Wigan Borough's last at Gresty Road on 12th September, 1931 and which is not shown, for all the results were expunged.

FILE

An interesting note on the front of the match programme reads as follows:- "Heath, the Bootmaker of Edleston Road, has consented to give each week to the holder of the winning programme number a pair of Genuine Jaeger Slippers, Ladies or Gents".

Before a gate of 5,500 who had paid £267 in admission money, the teams lined up. Crewe:- Brown, Pringle, Dawson, Ward, Keenor, Duthie, Murray, Gardner, Williams, Deacon, Weale. Wigan:- Mittell, Wade, Julian, Hallam, Martin, Cockle, Moon, Pearson, Valentine, Oakes, Murphy. The visitors took the lead when Moon shot. The ball hit Pringle's foot and went in. Deacon had the ball in the net only for it to be disallowed but he did get 2 with headers only for Valentine to score twice to give the visitors a 3-2 interval lead. In the second half Murray and Ward gave Crewe a 4-3 win.

Despite losing our skipper, Bernard Purdie, with a rib injury at Wigan on Boxing Day, it was only a single goal that robbed the Alex of a point they had deserved so we are now hoping that the tables can be reversed today. It is likely there will be a large influx of visiting supporters this afternoon so, in bidding them welcome, we hope they will take care when leaving the ground and have a safe journey home.

Crewe supporters will, I feel sure, be pleased to hear that Sid Barratt, the Alex groundsman, is still continuing to make progress and called in at the ground last week. Reasonably dry conditions had prevailed up to Saturday and then during the game down came the rain once more. When was the last fine Saturday we had for a game at Gresty Road? It takes some thinking about.

Our home form this season has been a sharp contrast from previous seasons. Just think, only a couple of seasons ago we only lost once and then last season, four times. Fortune is bound to shine on us one day — today would suit me fine.

The Editor.



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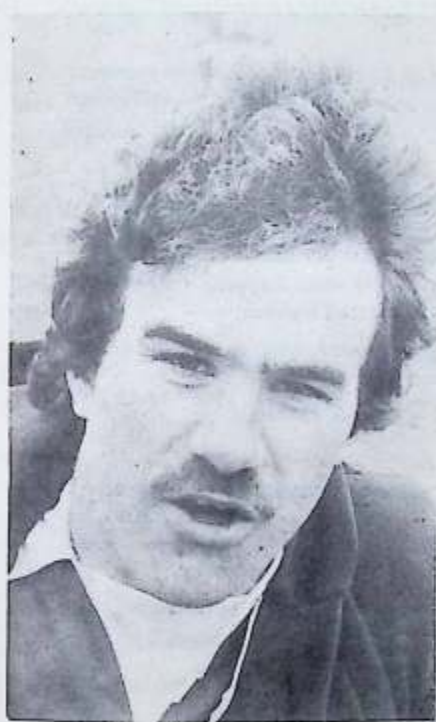
NEIL WILKINSON

(Photos by courtesy of Crewe Chronicle)

No prizes today for identifying the players featured in the above photograph. The first to start the current season at Vale Park. The first to come here when Kevin Tully went to Vale Park. The first to be signed by the club. The first to be sold. The first to be loaned. The first to be injured. The first to be sacked. The first to be promoted. The first to be relegated. The first to be... (The text is cut off at the end of the page.)

E SPOT

THE VALE



GARY DULSON

ictured above, Neil Wilkinson and Gary Dulson. Both
st to come to Gresty Road was Neil Wilkinson who
and he made his debut in the away game at
ue to injury. Gary Dulson first came on loan and
mouth. The following week he was out of the side,
ot play against his former club. On completion of
t basis.

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SENIOR

SUPPORTERS

Today we welcome the supporters of the Football League's newest club. Having met some of the officials of their supporters club in the past and been entertained in their club, I can vouchsafe for the fact that they are a cheerful, friendly crowd who work hard for their parent club.

They are also pretty fair domino players as I found out to my cost one Sunday afternoon!

One of my real grievances about this game of football is the hooligan element which it attracts, and consequently I am always prepared to listen to anyone with fresh ideas to cope with it.

In conversation with a gentleman recently, he assured me he could stop it in no time at all. His method was simple. Have six burly men stationed at each gate and throw them out before they get in! The mind boggles somewhat at this 'cure'. However, I think these hooligans should consider themselves lucky they don't live under Islamic Law. If they don't know what that would entail I suggest they read a few books on Saturday afternoon instead of going to football matches.

As this is the Easter holiday, may I wish all supporters a happy one, and don't get too many strained backs with digging the garden.

A. P. Martin.

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THE SIGN OF A FAIR DEAL

COLUMNS

JUNIOR

It is with deep regret that I have to announce the death of one of the Junior Club's great friends. On Sunday last I received the news that Mr. Ken Edge of Coleridge Way, Crewe had died that afternoon.

Ken was a great help to Peter Ferguson and myself and all our Junior team players, and his enthusiasm and love of football will be sorely missed.

He was an ardent Crewe Alex fan who encouraged his two sons to support their local team, and I am sure the popular side at Gresty Road will never be the same without him.

I must offer our deepest sympathy to his wife and children at the loss of such a true friend.

Paul McCann.

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Lancashire Pot Spot

A few weeks ago we were wondering when we would be able to get a game on. Now the wheel has come full circle for the cry might well be, can we find a full team.

It only needs a glance at the games we have to play in April and May to realise that we are in for a hectic time.

Our revival continued with an away draw at Southport last Saturday. What was a surprise was how dry and hard Haig Avenue was, and in addition the swirling wind made conditions very difficult for all.

Neil Wilkinson came through a hard workout with no apparent ill effects and will no doubt be back on first team duty.

Applications for trials continue to come in but with so many games to play and then our training sessions to fit in, free time is not easy to find. We have, however, hopes that some at least will be given an opportunity in a game before very long. Nobody will be ignored for it would be foolish to do so.

Fourth Division

as at Monday, 9th April, 1979

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Grimsby Town	38	23	6	9	69	39	52
Reading	38	20	11	7	64	35	51
Aldershot	38	17	14	7	55	37	48
Barnsley	34	18	11	5	60	29	47
WIGAN ATHLETIC	38	19	9	10	50	36	47
Wimbledon	34	19	7	8	58	38	45
Portsmouth	36	17	9	10	53	38	43
Newport County	37	17	8	12	53	46	42
Torquay United	37	15	6	16	46	52	36
Stockport County	37	13	9	15	51	49	35
Hereford United	36	12	11	13	43	42	35
Bradford City	35	14	7	14	47	54	35
Port Vale	36	11	11	14	43	49	33
York City	34	12	9	13	34	42	33
AFC Bournemouth	38	11	10	17	38	34	32
Huddersfield Town	35	11	10	14	40	40	32
Hartlepool United	34	8	15	11	40	51	31
Scunthorpe United	35	11	9	15	39	50	31
Doncaster Rovers	38	11	9	18	40	58	31
Northampton Town	35	11	7	17	47	57	29
Darlington	34	9	10	15	37	49	28
CREWE ALEXANDRA	36	6	13	17	37	66	25
Rochdale	34	7	9	18	31	54	23
Halifax Town	35	6	6	23	24	54	18

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE FIXTURES 1978/79

Aug.	19	Port Vale Res.	...	H	0	4
	26	Oldham Athletic Res.	...	A	1	5
Sept.	2	Wrexham Res.	...	H	0	2
	9	Liverpool 'A'	...	A	2	6
	16	Manchester United 'A'	...	H	1	5
	23	Everton 'A'	...	A	0	1
	30	Morecambe Res.	...	H	3	3
Oct.	6	Stockport County 'A'	...	A	1	2
	14	Oldham Athletic Res.	...	H	0	1
	21	Bradford City Res.	...	A	1	6
	28	Wrexham Res.	...	A	0	1
Nov.	4	Everton 'A'	...	H	1	2
	11	Macclesfield Res.	...	A	1	1
	18	Wigan Athletic Res.	...	H	3	3
Dec.	9	Chester 'A'	...	A	0	3
	30	Southport Res.	...	H	post.	
1979						
Jan.	13	Liverpool 'A'	...	H	1	2
	20	Bolton Wanderers 'B'	...	A	post.	
Feb.	3	Bolton Wanderers 'B'	...	H	0	3
	10	Wigan Athletic Res.	...	A	0	5
Mar.	3	Macclesfield Res.	...	H	2	2
	6	Stockport County 'A'	...	H	7	1
	24	Blackpool 'A'	...	H	3	1
	31	Tranmere Rovers Res.	...	H	post.	
Apr.	7	Southport Res.	...	A	0	0
	11	Port Vale Res.	...	A		
	14	Manchester United 'A'	...	A		
	16	Carlisle United Res.	...	H		
	17	Blackpool 'A'	...	A		
	20	Tranmere Rovers Res.	...	A		
	21	Morecambe Res.	...	A		
	26	Chester 'A'	...	H		
	28	Bradford City Res.	...	H		
May	2	Rochdale Res.	...	H		
	3	Manchester City 'A'	...	A		
	5	Manchester City 'A'	...	A		
	7	Carlisle United Res.	...	A		
	11	Rochdale Res.	...	A		

Fourth Division Appearances

	Lge.	L.C.	F.A.	Sub.
Paul Bevan	35	4	2	-
Paul Bowles	36	4	2	-
Drew Brand	1	2	-	-
Peter Caswell	19	2	-	-
Hughie Cheetham	14	3	-	-
Peter Coyne	22	2	2	5
Dai Davies	36	4	2	-
Gary Dulton	18	-	1	1
David Hughes	11	1	-	1
Dennis Nelson	25	4	-	6
Phil Nicholls	7	-	-	3
Bernard Purdie	34	4	2	-
Kevin Rafferty	14	-	2	-
Warwick Rimmer	16	2	1	3
Ian Roberts	28	4	2	-
Jimmy Robertson	23	1	2	1
Mike Rogan	2	-	-	-
Kevin Tully	6	3	-	-
Neil Warnock	14	-	-	-
Neil Wilkinson	16	-	2	1
Steve Wilshaw	19	4	2	1

FIXTURES 1978-79

FOURTH DIVISION

				Res	Att.	Pts.	Pos.	Scorers
1978								
Aug.	12	Rochdale (LC1) ... H	1 0	1914	-	-		Nelson
	14	Rochdale (LC1) ... A	4 2	1344	-	-		Nelson (2), Coyne, Bowles (pen.)
	19	Huddersfield Town ... A	0 0	2838	1	-		
	23	Barnsley ... H	0 2	2642	1	-		
	25	Port Vale ... H	1 5	4413	1	23		Bowles
	30	Notts County (LC2) ... H	2 0	3178	-	-		Wilshaw, Davies
Sept.	2	Portsmouth ... A	0 3	7429	1	24		
	9	AFC Bournemouth ... H	1 0	1693	3	20		Davies
	12	Newport County ... A	2 1	3176	5	17		Coyne 2
	16	Hereford United ... A	1 6	3493	5	18		Purdie
	23	Grimsby Town ... H	0 3	1785	5	21		
	27	Stockport County ... H	2 2	2777	6	20		Davies, Coyne
	30	Halifax Town ... A	0 0	985	7	20		
Oct.	3	Luton Town (LC3) ... A	1 2	6602	-	-		Bowles (pen.)
	7	Torquay United ... H	6 2	1854	9	19		Bowles (pen.), Coyne 2, Davies,
	13	Darlington ... A	1 1	1919	10	21		Davies [Purdie, Wilshaw
	17	Wimbledon ... A	1 1	3555	11	18		Coyne
	21	Hartlepool ... H	0 1	2023	11	21		
	27	Aldershot ... H	1 1	1937	12	21		Bowles
Nov.	4	Rochdale ... A	1 2	1325	12	22		Coyne
	11	Portsmouth ... H	0 0	2294	13	22		
	18	Port Vale ... A	2 2	4607	14	22		Bowles, Coyne
	25	Nuneaton (FA1) ... A	2 0	4352	-	-		Bowles, Coyne
Dec.	6	Reading ... A	0 3	4643	14	22		
	9	Bradford City ... H	1 2	1956	14	22		Nelson
	16	Hartlepool (FA2) ... H	0 1	2626	-	-		
	26	Wigan Athletic ... A	0 1	7586	14	22		
1979								
Jan.	13	AFC Bournemouth ... A	1 0	2855	16	22		Bowles
Feb.	6	Hereford United ... H	0 0	1485	17	22		
	10	Halifax Town ... H	1 0	1594	19	22		Warnock
	13	Doncaster Rovers ... H	2 4	1532	19	22		Davies, Bowles
	20	Torquay (5) ... A	0 3	3020	19	22		
	23	Darlington ... H	1 1	1474	20	22		Coyne
	27	Grimsby Town ... A	2 2	6598	21	21		Davies 2
Mar.	3	Hartlepool United ... A	2 2	2427	22	21		Nelson, Coyne
	5	Stockport County ... A	3 4	3102	22	21		Davies, Coyne, Bevan
	10	Aldershot (6) ... A	0 3	3947	22	21		
	13	Newport County ... H	0 1	1459	22	22		
	24	Barnsley ... A	1 3	8945	22	22		Coyne
	28	Huddersfield Town ... H	3 3	1382	23	22		Bowles 2, Nelson
	31	Scunthorpe (SF) ... A	1 0	1868	25	21		Nelson
Apr.	7	Reading ... H	0 2	1856	25	22		
	10	Northampton Tn. ... H						
	14	Wigan Athletic ... H						
	16	Doncaster Rovers ... A						
	17	Northampton Tn. ... A						
	21	York City ... H						
	25	Wimbledon ... H						
	28	Bradford City ... A						
May	1	York City ... A						
	5	Scunthorpe United ... H						
	11	Rochdale ... H						
	12	F.A. Cup Final						



ALEX NEWS DESK

Following my notes in the Reading programme, we have now made the points task much more difficult for ourselves inasmuch that we need maximum points from the three holiday games. Mathematically it is still possible for us to attain the safety level of 40 points, but when you are down at the bottom Lady Luck seems to turn her back on you. Having said that, it must be just as difficult for the other clubs in a similar position.

Today we are proud to be flying the Club Flag which was on display at Wembley Stadium for this year's Football League Cup Final. It is the privilege of all clubs who reach the last 32 of the competition to display their colours at Wembley. I wonder how many of you who went to Wembley for the Final saw our clubs' — it was flying right opposite the Royal Box in a prominent position.

Finally, may I remind you that our Reserve side, who are now beginning to find some form, are at home to Carlisle United on Monday next, kick-off 2.00 p.m.

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- v. Northampton Town: 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment BFPO 29.
- v. Newport County: David Billington, 69 Crewe Road, Shavington.
- v. Hereford United: Mr. Sam Young, 92 Queen Street, Crewe.
- v. Reading: Ken Dove.
- v. York City: Crewe & Nantwich Labour Party.
- v. Wigan Athletic: The Brunswick Mob.
- v. Scunthorpe United: The Programme Staff.

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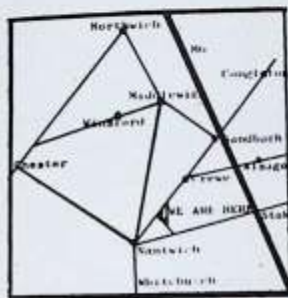
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TEAMS

Crewe Alex

Scarlet Shirts, White Shorts

- 1 Mike ROGAN
- 2 David HUGHES
- 3 Gary DULSON
- 4 Bernard PURDIE
- 5 Paul BOWLES
- 6 Paul BEVAN
- 7 Dai DAVIES
- 8 Hughie CHEETHAM
- 9 Peter COYNE
- 10 Neil WARNOCK
- 11 Dennis NELSON
- 12 To be announced

Referee:

ALAN SEVILLE
(Birmingham)

Linesmen:

R. D. Bayley (Altrincham)
Red Flag
G. W. Preece (Walsall)
Yellow Flag

Wigan

Blue & White Striped Shirts,
Blue Shorts

- 1 John BROWN
- 2 John CURTIS
- 3 Kevin SMART
- 4 Tommy GORE
- 5 Noel WARD
- 6 Dave FRETWELL
- 7 Frank CORRIGAN
- 8 Jeff WRIGHT
- 9 Peter HOUGHTON
- 10 Mickey MOORE
- 11 Ian PURDIE
- 12 Derek BROWNBILL

HERE NEXT

Monday, 16th April, 1979.

Lancs. League v.
Carlisle United Res.
Kick-off 2.00 p.m.

Saturday, 21st April, 1979.

Fourth Division v.
YORK CITY.
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Wednesday, 25th April, 1979.

Fourth Division v.
WIMBLEDON.
Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

BALL SPONSOR

The Match Ball for this afternoon's game has kindly been donated by The Brunswick Mob.

REFEREE

ALAN SEVILLE

(Birmingham)

Started refereeing in 1962 and progressed via the Birmingham and District Works A.F.A. and West Midland (Regional) League to the Football League list. Refereed the Birmingham County Senior Cup Final in 1976, and F.A. Vase semi-final in 1978.

He is a married man with two daughters and works as a Toolmaker. His main interest — apart from football — is the Trade Union movement and has been a Lay Officer, District Delegate and Shop Steward in his Union. Plays Crown Green bowls.

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Records played at Gresty Road are kindly supplied by Spin Inn, Heath Street, Crewe.

Crewe Alexandra F.C.
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